



TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION

The State Agency for Historic Preservation

#E1-328

RG

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F. LAWRENCE OAKS, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

November 13, 2003

Ms. Victoria Rutson
Office of Economics, Environmental Analysis and Administration
Surface Transportation Board
Washington, D.C. 20423

Re: *Project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966
Vibration Study for Proposed Railway, Medina County. (STB)*

Dear Ms. Rutson:

Thank you for your correspondence describing the above referenced project. This letter serves as comment on the proposed undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

The review staff, led by Pam Opiela, has completed its review of the project documentation provided. We received a copy of a vibration study from the Surface Transportation Board's Section of Environmental Analysis on the impacts of vibration on cultural resources in the area of potential effect. We are concerned that this information is being provided before a thorough survey of resources in the area has been completed. On October 29th, we sent a letter to you asking for identification of cultural resources in the area of potential effect. A vibration study per the proposed railroad project should take into consideration all identified historic properties.

Also, note that our office is allowed 30 days to respond to your request for comment from the time of receipt of the request. Please do not request a response before the 30-day comment period is complete unless there is an emergency situation as defined in the Section 106 regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, 36 CFR, Section 800.12. If there are other reasons for requesting a response prior to the 30-day deadline, please notify our office and we will work to accommodate your request.

We look forward to further consultation with your office and hope to maintain a partnership that will foster effective historic preservation. Thank you for your cooperation in this federal review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If you have any questions concerning our review or if we can be of further assistance, please contact Bill Martin in our Archaeology Division at 512/463-5867 or Pam Opiela in the Division of Architecture at 512/463-6218.**

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "F. Lawrence Oaks".

for: F. Lawrence Oaks, State Historic Preservation Officer

cc. Robert N. Hancock, Medina County Historical Commission
Cynthia Lindsey, Quihi and New Fountain Historical Society
Dr. Robert Fitzgerald, Medina Environmental Action Association

FLO/PO